

OAKLANDS, HARTLEY WINTNEY,

MARCH 30th, 1916.

TO THE

Hartley Wintney Rural District Council.

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## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

For the Year ended December 31st, 1915.

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**Estimated Population (Civil only) 18,150.**

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LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Fourteenth Annual Report on the health of the District under circumstances especially sad and distressing, as we are in the midst of a great European War which, at the time of writing, shows no signs of termination. Under these circumstances the Local Government Board consider that many of the details usually inserted in the Report, such as a description of the District, the Water Supply, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal, may be omitted, and the Report may be confined to a record of what has taken place during the year.

### DEATHS.

The total deaths registered in the District numbered 247. Rate 12.76. Number of deaths under one year of age 26, as against 27 in 1914, 24 and 23 in 1912-11.

## BIRTHS.

The number of births is 369 for the year, as against 387 in 1912 and 363 in 1913. Rate per thousand 20.33.

On July 30th, 1914, the Local Government Board issued an important circular on maternity and child welfare, which is engaging much attention and consideration.

## TROOPS—BILLETS AND CAMPS.

During the year vast numbers of troops have been billeted and encamped in the District. Probably in consequence of the rush on the part of the Military Authorities the billets selected were often not the most suitable that might have been procured. Troops have been billeted at Cove, Crondall, Crookham, Dogmersfield, Eversley, Greywell, Hartley Wintney, Hawley, Heckfield, Odiham, South Warnborough, and Yateley.

At Crookham a good deal of gorse and light heathland has been acquired by the War Office Department and hutments have been erected, forming a large Camp at Tweesledown. The drainage from the Camp was discharged into a watercourse, which flowed under the Aldershot Road to Pine Grove in the direction of Fleet. After representations to the Military Authorities, drainage disposal works were constructed north of the Church Army Sanatorium on War Department land. The drainage is now pumped to these works and the nuisance is abated, but the appearance of the watercourse at times gives rise to suspicions as to whether the whole of the drainage is lifted to the disposal works. The collection of fœcal matter from the Camp and its disposal caused a serious nuisance on land near to Pine Grove. Legal proceedings had to be resorted to against the contractor and penalties obtained before the nuisances were abated. The return of warmer weather will probably find other nuisances of the same nature unless more care is exercised than at present. Crookham has since the addition of the Camp become anything but a sanitary village. Refuse from the Urban District of Fleet is brought by a scavenging contractor to Crookham.

Hutments are also being erected at Cove, where the War Department have acquired a good deal of land, which

extends along the south side of the London and South-Western Railway to Bramshott Golf Links. The drainage and sewage from these huts has been connected to the Farnborough urban sewage system. The Frimley and Farnborough Water Company supply water to the Camps, as well as in many instances to temporary camps.

### CLOSETS.

Closet accommodation throughout the District is gradually being improved; many of the foul old cesspits are being abolished and replaced by pail closets. These latter in careless hands soon become nuisances.

### SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The improvement to the Sewage Disposal Works at Hartley Wintney has now been completed. The effluent from the Works now has the appearance of being treated. Chemical examinations should periodically be made to ascertain the results. Some of the ventilating shafts and manholes emit foul odours at times, particularly one near to Oaklands, of which the Inspector of Nuisances said that foul odours on a certain date were unpleasantly perceptible to him, even while travelling on his motor bicycle.

The Council adopted a proper scheme for the collection of excrement and refuse at Blackwater, but abandoned it. It should be re-introduced. When examining billets for soldiers I was struck with the insanitary condition of parts of this village and Frogmore. Not only is a scavenging scheme necessary, but also a system of drainage.

### MILK.

With the ever-increasing shortage of labour, expense of litter and food, the milk of this District is produced under great difficulties. That it is done as well as it is should be a source of congratulation to the Council, the dairy keeper, and the public. There have been no complaints of dirty samples taken during the year 1915, neither in this area nor from districts obtaining milk from cowkeepers within the District. I believe an honest endeavour is being made in this industry to make the best of a difficult situation. Periodical linewashing has not been enforced to date, but for the most part has been carried out by the Vendors.

## BAKEHOUSES AND SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Bakehouses and slaughterhouses are inspected at irregular times.

## MEAT.

Only one diseased carcase has been discovered. This was destroyed. In a scattered district like this diseased meat could easily be missed.

## HOUSING.

Numerous inspections of houses have been made and records kept at my direction. I beg to call the Council's attention to the fact that none of them show any evidence of having been perused by the Council. It is true that some houses have been closed, but not until pressure was brought to bear by the County Medical Officer, except in one instance. This is hardly fair upon the Council's own Sanitary Officers, as it tends to lead to the opinion, most incorrect, that they had not troubled themselves on the subject, whereas in each case the information for action to be taken had long been in the Council's possession. Consequently the Council alone is responsible for non-intervention. In nearly every Parish in the District the housing problem demands the most serious consideration and action after the close of the War.

Mattingley has been materially improved.

Winchfield.—Immense improvements have been made

Long Sutton.—Great improvements have been made.

The following is a record of work done during the year :

Closing orders commenced by the Council	5
Closing orders made ... ..	4
Closing order rescinded on improvements being carried out ... ..	1
Houses closed voluntarily ... ..	5
Houses improved voluntarily ... ..	30
Houses improved to a less degree ... ..	21
Demolished voluntarily ... ..	6
New house erected in place of one demolished ... ..	1

## ISOLATION HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION FOR INFECTIOUS CASES.

Cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria are sent to the Isolation Hospital at Farnham, when it is thought this course would tend to check the spread of infection. The cost is three guineas per week. The number of cases sent has steadily increased during the last few years. The Authorities at Farnham require diphtheria sufferers to be injected with anti-toxin before being received. A stock of anti-toxin is always kept for use by practitioners in the district. The Council also possess a complete hospital tent, minus a kitchen. This tent was in use for many weeks at Crondall during the past year for two cases notified as Epidemic Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The number of infectious notifiable cases that have occurred amongst the civil population are as follows :—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	39
Erysipelas	...	...	...	7
Puerperal	...	...	...	2
Diphtheria	...	...	...	11
Epidemic Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis				5
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...		2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...		12
Other Tuberculosis Cases	...	...		4

There have been during the year epidemics of Measles, Whooping Cough, Chickenpox and Mumps, causing many of the County Schools to be closed, sometimes more than once.

The Council's shelters have been in use for Pulmonary Tuberculous cases and the County Council's shelters have been borrowed for non-insured patients.

A steam disinfecter is badly needed. Otherwise perfect disinfection cannot be ensured.

During the summer a few cases of diphtheria occurred at Pilcot and Dogmersfield. The infection was traceable to a contact from Newbury lodging in a house in the village.

29 cases of notifiable infectious disease have occurred amongst the military. All were removed to the Military Isolation Hospital at Aldershot.

### WORKSHOPS.

These are periodically inspected as occasion requires. A few cases of infectious disease have occurred. In each case instructions were attended to carefully.

### WATER SUPPLY.

The Parish of Rotherwick is at last being supplied with wholesome water by the Frimley and Farnborough Water Company. The water supply of the district is improving. More houses take the Company's water. It is unfortunate that this water is so hard.

The water at Hartley Wintney needs to be periodically analysed to ascertain when the filters require to be cleaned or changed.

The District has been regularly inspected. The Inspector's report is attached. It speaks for itself.

I desire to thank the Council for the courteous consideration of my reports at all times during the year. My thanks are also due to the Inspector of Nuisances for much valued assistance.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

H. MATURIN.



# Summary of Sanitary Work done in the Inspector of Nuisances Department during the Year 1915.

	NUMBER OF		ABATEMENT NOTICES.		NUISANCES ABATED AFTER NOTICES BY		NUISANCE REMAINING UNABATED
	Inspections and Observations made	Defects found	Informal by Inspector	Formal by Authority	Inspector	Authority	
Dwelling-houses and Schools	Foul Conditions .. .. .	268	55		37		18
	Structural Defects .. .. .	504	151		118	6	27
	Over-crowding .. .. .	119	21		18	1	2
	Unfit for Habitation .. .. .	500	78		31	5	42
	Lodging-houses .. .. .						
	Dairies and Milkshops .. .. .	125	31		31		
	Cowsheds .. .. .	207	64		62		2
	Bakehouses .. .. .	73	16	1	15	1	
	Slaughter-houses .. .. .						
	Canal Boats .. .. .	31	6		6		
House Drainage	Ashpits and Privies .. .. .	635	341		341		
	Deposits of Refuse and Manure .. .. .	273	248		232	14	2
	Water Closets .. .. .	157	23		16		7
	Defective Traps .. .. .	140	36		23	3	10
	No Disconnection .. .. .	103	18		8	3	7
	Other Faults .. .. .	471	52		33		19
	Water Supply .. .. .	564	94		23	29	42
	Pigsties .. .. .	161	29		26	3	
	Animals improperly kept .. .. .	223	16		16		
	Offensive Trades .. .. .						
	Smoke Nuisances .. .. .						
	Other Nuisances .. .. .						
	Totals .. .. .	487	101	79	53	8	40
		5061	1380	1280	1089	73	218

Complaints received	..	..	..	a few signed
Seizures of Unwholesome Food	..	..	..	1
Samples of Water taken for Analysis	..	..	..	46
Samples of Water Condemned as Unfit for Use	..			35

### PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Lots of Infected Bedding Stoved or Destroyed	..			5
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease	..	..		59

### HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT.

#### INSPECTION OF HOUSES.

*Scarcity of Houses at Cove, Crookham, Crondall and Hawley.*

*Number of New Houses built in 1915, 18.*

*General Character, 11 Cottages.*

*Inspecting Officer under Article II of the Housing Regulations,*  
1910, The Inspector of Nuisances.

Houses inspected..	..	..	..	..	..	768
Dwelling-houses found unfit for human habitation	..					42
Representations made	..	..	..	..	numerous	
Closing Order made	..	..	..	..	..	4
Houses made habitable without Closing Orders	..					30
Houses made habitable as result of Closing Orders	..					1
Houses demolished	..	..	..	..	..	6
Houses unfit but still occupied	..	..	..	..	..	42